

like the \$400 per child, leaving that money in the family's home as opposed to having it out here in Washington, it is not just about numbers. It is about people. It is about the impact that this money in the family will have on these families.

Another example on the \$400 per child, I was in with a group of people who had many of their children enrolled in parochial schools. I talked to them about the potential of government providing them some sort of tax assistance for parochial schools. And right away, they reacted no, no, no, no, we do not want any government support for our school. Because they are afraid with government support come government rules and regulations that may not match up with what our parochial schools are teaching, my own kids included that go to a parochial school.

So I explained to them how the \$400-per-child tax credit allowed them to make the decision on what they were going to use their own \$400 for. If they choose to use that \$400 to help pay tuition at a parochial school, well, so be it. That is money that would have been sent to Washington that is now in their home, and they can then choose to make the decision to send their kids to a parochial school if they so desire. But it is not Washington telling them what to do with the money, and it is not Washington telling their parochial school what to teach in their school, but, rather, it is now the parents in their own home making the decision as to how to spend their own money.

I would like to wrap up my time here on the floor today with kind of just a brief summary of some of the things we have talked about. We have looked at the past, and we have looked at how in the past we had a series of broken promises to balance the budget.

Before 1994, we had Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, the budget deal of 1990. We looked at how, in 1993, they reached the conclusion on how to solve this problem. Rather than control Washington spending, the conclusion was to reach into the pockets of American citizens. I know for all the people out there, it was not the first time. I know it was part of the 1990 deal. I know it was part of the 1993 deal. But I also know that every time they reached in the pockets and took more money out here to Washington, all it did was allow them to spend more out here in Washington, and that is not what the people wanted.

That path of broken promises of the balanced budget and the path of higher taxes, that is over. It ended in 1994 when the American people stepped up to the plate and said enough is enough, it is going to stop. They put a new group in charge out here in Washington.

We are now 3 years into that new group. The new group has brought us a balanced budget, not in 2002 as promised, but 4 years ahead of schedule. The announcement today, great news, CBO,

from the organization that watches budgeting out here: We are, in fact, running a surplus for fiscal year 1998. The first time since 1969, we are going to have a budget surplus.

□ 1615

Great news. Three years into this thing, we have done it by controlling the growth of Washington spending. We have been effective enough at slowing the growth rate of Washington spending, that we have not only gotten to a balanced budget 4 years ahead of schedule, we have been able to provide the American people with a tax cut.

When I say "we provide," shoot, it is the American people that earn that money. All we are doing out here in Washington is saying keep more of your own money. It is yours to start with, just do not send it out here to Washington. The present, the present has a balanced budget for the first time since 1969; The present, the present is lower taxes for the first time in 16 years; the present, the present is a restored Medicare, and done the right way, with feeling and understanding for our senior citizens.

The future. As we look forward to this, we have 3 major problems remaining. The first is we still have a \$5.5 trillion debt staring us in the face; the second is the Social Security money that needs to be put aside for Social Security; and the third is taxes are still too high.

So as we look down the road to the future in this great nation, the National Debt Repayment Act which we have introduced in our office, bill number H.R. 2191, takes two-thirds of any surpluses that develop and it uses it to pay off the debt. Prioritizing, repayment to the Social Security Trust Fund for our senior citizens.

The good news under this bill is that by the year 2026, and maybe sooner, we will have repaid the entire Federal debt that will restore the Social Security trust fund for our senior citizens and it will allow us as a generation to pass this country on to our children debt-free.

I can think of no higher goal that we might have in this government today than to work to a point where we repay the Federal debt so our children can inherit a Nation that is absolutely debt-free. In doing so, we also restore the Social Security trust fund for our seniors.

The other one-third of the surpluses that are developing, let us use those to lower taxes, and let us set our vision for the future that we get the tax rate from 37 back to 25 percent. Would it not be great if one-third of all taxes paid by all Americans at every level of government was reduced, and those American citizens could keep it in their own pocket to decide what they would like to do with it, whether it be to help their children, whether it be to put their kids through college, whether it be to provide their kids with a private school, if that is what they would

like to do, if they in their own wisdom think that is better for their children. But the bottom line is to leave that money in the hands of the people that earned it in the first place.

Would that not be a great vision for America? Paid off debts, so our children get a debt-free nation; a restored Social Security trust fund for our senior citizens; and lower taxes, a one-third reduction in the overall tax rate all across America?

Lest anybody think we cannot do it, I just remind the American people of what was said in 1995 when we were first elected. They said you cannot balance the budget and lower tax. Here we are, three years into it, four years ahead of schedule, with the budget balanced, taxes coming down and Medicare restored. It can be done, if it is the will of the people, and if the people get actively involved in making sure that this government does what they want this government to do.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM) at 5 p.m.

#### SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### HOMELESS HOUSING PROGRAMS CONSOLIDATION AND FLEXIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 217, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 217, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were— yeas 386, nays 23, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 26]

YEAS—386

Abercrombie	Allen	Armey
Ackerman	Andrews	Bachus
Aderholt	Archer	Baesler

Baker	Fawell	Levin	Roybal-Allard	Snyder	Traficant
Baldacci	Fazio	Lewis (CA)	Sabo	Solomon	Turner
Ballenger	Filner	Lewis (GA)	Sanchez	Souder	Upton
Barcia	Foley	Lewis (KY)	Sanders	Spence	Velazquez
Barr	Forbes	Linder	Sandlin	Spratt	Vento
Barrett (NE)	Ford	Lipinski	Sanford	Stabenow	Visclosky
Barrett (WI)	Fossella	Livingston	Saxton	Stark	Walsh
Bartlett	Fowler	LoBiondo	Schaefer, Dan	Stearns	Waters
Barton	Fox	Lofgren	Schaffer, Bob	Stenholm	Watkins
Bass	Frank (MA)	Lowey	Schumer	Stokes	Watt (NC)
Bateman	Franks (NJ)	Lucas	Scott	Strickland	Watts (OK)
Becerra	Frelinghuysen	Maloney (NY)	Serrano	Stump	Waxman
Bentsen	Frost	Manton	Sessions	Stupak	Weldon (FL)
Bereuter	Furse	Markey	Shaw	Sununu	Weldon (PA)
Berman	Gallely	Martinez	Shays	Talent	Weller
Berry	Ganske	Mascara	Sherman	Tanner	Wexler
Bilbray	Gejdenson	Matsui	Shuster	Tauscher	Weygand
Bilirakis	Gekas	McCarthy (MO)	Sisisky	Tauzin	Whitfield
Bishop	Gephardt	McCarthy (NY)	Skaggs	Taylor (MS)	Wicker
Blagojevich	Gibbons	McCollum	Skeen	Taylor (NC)	Wise
Bliley	Gilchrest	McCrery	Skelton	Thomas	Wolf
Blunt	Gillmor	McDade	Slaughter	Thompson	Woolsey
Boehlert	Gilman	McDermott	Smith (MI)	Thornberry	Wynn
Boehner	Goode	McGovern	Smith (NJ)	Thune	Yates
Bonilla	Goodlatte	McHale	Smith (OR)	Thurman	Young (AK)
Bonior	Goodling	McHugh	Smith (TX)	Tiahrt	Young (FL)
Borski	Gordon	McIntyre	Smith, Adam	Tierney	
Boswell	Goss	McKeon	Snowbarger	Towns	
Boucher	Graham	McKinney			
Boyd	Granger	McNulty			
Brady	Green	Meehan			
Brown (CA)	Greenwood	Meek (FL)	Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart	Rivers
Brown (FL)	Gutierrez	Meeks (NY)	Cannon	Duncan	Royce
Brown (OH)	Hall (OH)	Menendez	Chenoweth	Hostettler	Ryun
Bryant	Hall (TX)	Metcalfe	Coble	Jones	Sawyer
Bunning	Hamilton	Mica	Cox	Manzullo	Sensenbrenner
Burr	Hansen	Millender-McDonald	Crane	McIntosh	Shadegg
Burton	Hastert	Miller (CA)	DeFazio	Miller (FL)	Wamp
Buyer	Hastings (FL)	Minge	DeLay	Paul	
Callahan	Hastings (WA)	Mink			
Calvert	Hayworth	Moakley	Christensen	Maloney (CT)	Salmon
Camp	Hefley	Mollohan	Doolittle	McInnis	Scarborough
Campbell	Herger	Moran (KS)	Gonzalez	Neal	Schiff
Canady	Hill	Moran (VA)	Gutknecht	Poshard	Shimkus
Cardin	Hilleary	Morella	Harman	Ros-Lehtinen	Smith, Linda
Carson	Hilliard	Murtha	Hefner	Roukema	Torres
Castle	Hinchee	Myrick	Luther	Rush	White
Chabot	Hinojosa	Nadler			
Chambliss	Hobson	Nethercutt			
Clay	Hoekstra	Neumann			
Clayton	Holden	Ney			
Clement	Hooley	Northup			
Clyburn	Horn	Norwood			
Coburn	Houghton	Nussle			
Collins	Hoyer	Oberstar			
Combest	Hulshof	Obey			
Condit	Hunter	Olver			
Conyers	Hutchinson	Ortiz			
Cook	Hyde	Owens			
Cooksey	Inglis	Oxley			
Costello	Istook	Packard			
Coyne	Jackson (IL)	Pallone			
Cramer	Jackson-Lee	Pappas			
Crapo	(TX)	Parker			
Cubin	Jefferson	Pascarell			
Cummings	Jenkins	Pastor			
Cunningham	John	Paxon			
Danner	Johnson (CT)	Payne			
Davis (FL)	Johnson (WI)	Pease			
Davis (IL)	Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi			
Davis (VA)	Johnson, Sam	Peterson (MN)			
Deal	Kanjorski	Peterson (PA)			
DeGette	Kaptur	Petri			
Delahunt	Kasich	Pickering			
DeLauro	Kelly	Pickett			
Deutsch	Kennedy (MA)	Pitts			
Dickey	Kennedy (RI)	Pombo			
Dicks	Kennelly	Pomeroy			
Dingell	Kildee	Porter			
Dixon	Kilpatrick	Portman			
Doggett	Kim	Price (NC)			
Dooley	Kind (WI)	Pryce (OH)			
Doyle	King (NY)	Quinn			
Dreier	Kingston	Radanovich			
Dunn	Kleczka	Rahall			
Edwards	Klink	Ramstad			
Ehlers	Klug	Rangel			
Ehrlich	Knollenberg	Redmond			
Emerson	Kolbe	Regula			
Engel	Kucinich	Reyes			
English	LaFalce	Riggs			
Ensign	LaHood	Riley			
Eshoo	Lampson	Rodriguez			
Etheridge	Lantos	Roemer			
Evans	Largent	Rogan			
Everett	Latham	Rogers			
Ewing	LaTourette	Rohrabacher			
Farr	Lazio	Rothman			
Fattah	Leach				

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT 1996 ANNUAL REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services:

### To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3536, I transmit herewith the 32nd Annual Report of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which covers calendar year 1996.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 1998.

## INTERAGENCY ARCTIC RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

### To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 108(b) of Public Law 98-373 (15 U.S.C. 4107(b)), I transmit herewith the Seventh Biennial Report of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (February 1, 1996 to January 31, 1998).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 3, 1998.

## 1998 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Banking and Financial Services, Committee on Commerce, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Committee on International Relations, Committee on National Security, Committee on Resources, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and Committee on Ways and Means:

### To the Congress of the United States:

On behalf of the American people, I am pleased to transmit the 1998 National Drug Control Strategy to the Congress. The 1998 Strategy reaffirms our bipartisan, enduring commitment to reduce drug use and its destructive consequences.

This year's Strategy builds upon the 1997 Strategy and is designed to reduce

## NAYS—23

Blumenauer	Diaz-Balart	Rivers
Cannon	Duncan	Royce
Chenoweth	Hostettler	Ryun
Coble	Jones	Sawyer
Cox	Manzullo	Sensenbrenner
Crane	McIntosh	Shadegg
DeFazio	Miller (FL)	Wamp
DeLay	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—21

Christensen	Maloney (CT)	Salmon
Doolittle	McInnis	Scarborough
Gonzalez	Neal	Schiff
Gutknecht	Poshard	Shimkus
Harman	Ros-Lehtinen	Smith, Linda
Hefner	Roukema	Torres
Luther	Rush	White

□ 1725

Mr. WAMP and Mr. MILLER of Florida changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. WYNN changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was in Minnesota today and unable to vote on H.R. 217, the "Homeless Housing Programs Consolidation and Flexibility Act." Had I been present, I would have voted in support of H.R. 217.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2495

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2495, the Higher Education for the 21st Century Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.